

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 have been rejected. Upon entry of this paper, claims 1 and 5 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, and no claims have been added as new claims. Thus, claims 1-5 are presently pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner believes it is unclear that the invention is labeled a “filter” in the preamble but fails to include any structure for filtering in the body of the claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to specifically recite a filter insert located in the filter housing. Applicants submit that such amendment further clarifies that which Applicants believe to be their invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that all 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph issues have been addressed and corrected. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner believes that claims 3 and 4 claim a hybrid species not supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the above amendment to claim 1 and the following arguments.

There is support for both a support dome and tubular valve body in the specification. While not specifically numbered, the support dome can be seen in Figs 4a and 4b. Nowhere in the specification, while discussing figures 4a and 4b, does it say that the structure shown in these figures does not include a support dome. The Examiner has stated that figures 1a-c disclose the

support dome. Looking at Figure 1b the support dome, though not numbered, is clearly visible. The same structure is also seen, but not numbered, in figures 4a and 4b. Accordingly, there is support for claims 3 and 4 in the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that all 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph issues have been addressed. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EPO 0 492 627-A2, hereinafter '627. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the above amendments and following arguments.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assessment of what is shown in the figures of the '627 reference. The '627 reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1. As claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1, they incorporate each and every element of claim 1. Thus, the '627 reference fails to disclose each and every element of claims 2 and 5 as well. Specifically, the '627 reference fails to disclose the valve seat in the filter base, combination component, and support dome of the present invention. The '627 reference discloses a filter container with double construction, which comprises a sheath member and a disposable unit container. The Examiner has indicated the sheath is a filter base. The sheath of the '627 reference does not have a valve seat. Also, there is no combination component in the '627 reference. Applicants submit that the list of components the Examiner has indicated are features of the disposable unit container, which is not the same as the combination component of the present invention. Likewise, what the Examiner has indicated as a support dome is instead a feature of the disposable unit container that secures the cartridge filters in place. This is not the same as the support dome of the present invention. Accordingly, the '627 reference fails to disclose all the elements of the claimed invention.

In light of the above comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present invention are not anticipated by, and are therefore in condition for allowance over, the cited documents. Such action is kindly requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ‘627 in view of GB 2,279,725, hereinafter ‘725.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, and as such incorporate each and every element of claim 1. For the reasons discussed above with regard to the 35 USC 102 rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the ‘627 reference neither teaches nor suggests each and every element of claim 1. Specifically, the ‘627 reference does not teach or suggest the valve seat in the filter base, combination component, and support dome of claim 1. As such, the ‘627 reference fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 3 and 4. Likewise, the ‘725 reference also lacks a disclosure of a valve seat in the filter base, combination components, and support dome. Therefore, the combination of the ‘725 reference with the ‘627 reference fails to teach or suggest all elements of the pending claims, including claims 3 and 4.

In light of the above comments, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every element of claims 3 and 4 of the present invention are not taught or suggested by either ‘627 or ‘725, and are therefore in condition for allowance over, the cited documents. Such action is kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. HHI-041US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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